

How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home

By Terence Conran

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How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home By Terence Conran

A world-renowned design authority shows how to make the most of every square foot.

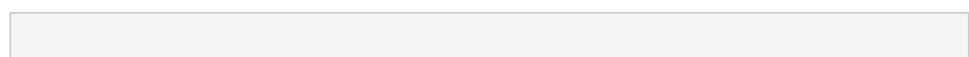
Whether motivated by soaring energy costs, smaller families or the desire to live more simply, homeowners are abandoning "McMansions" for smaller housing. In **How to Live in Small Spaces**, Terence Conran explains that what's paramount to livability is not square footage, but how the space is divided.

In this comprehensive, full color book, Conran tackles the many challenges posed by small spaces. Chapters cover storage, bedrooms, children's rooms, lighting, extension and much more. "Assessing your needs" checklists and "points to consider" sidebars add valuable ideas. The six case studies that conclude the book provide excellent examples of great designs.

The author offers practical advice on exploiting every inch of space through:

- Using fold-down and pull-out features
- Buying slimline appliances
- Installing indoor portholes and windows
- Lessening the impact of furniture
- Using scale and proportion to advantage
- Manipulating color, texture and pattern
- Using screens, partitions and platforms
- Improving circulation paths.

Terence Conran never forgets the challenges posed by small spaces or the ingenuity and compromises required. He shows how easy it is to create a home whose comfort is not dependent on size, but on efficiency and integrity.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Founder of Habitat stores, designer and author Conran (*The Ultimate House Book*) recognizes in this prescient work that being upwardly mobile no longer translates into living large, particularly for urban dwellers. Opting for a smaller home enables one to live in a more desirable location, perhaps closer to work; a smaller home is cheaper to run (think energy), easier to maintain and forces one to be more selective in purchases and less acquisitive. "Think laterally and creatively" is Conran's dictum, for example, in assessing needs, decorating the space to make the most of light and air, simplifying architectural details, building in storage and investing in functional, dual-use furniture, i.e., wall beds in neutral shades. Conran is fond of open-concept layouts to permit freer circulation space and is not afraid of suggesting strong color for tight spaces. He emphasizes the importance of lighting, especially diffuse lighting. And once you've done all you can yourself, subsequent chapters treat hiring assistance for converting attics, basements and sheds. In "Area by Area," Conran tackles each tight living space specifically for maximum use—kitchen, bedroom, children's room, bathroom, even small yards. Six cases studies nicely conclude this enormously accessible volume, from a studio in L.A. to a split-level apartment in Paris and an engawa house in Tokyo. (*May*)
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Review

Sleep cylinders, shacks, tree tents and modular pods are examples (if extreme ones) of the mold-breaking ideas in this workbook by the British home-design magnate. (David Lewis Taylor *In Style Home*)

No more complaining. Legendary London-based designer Terence Conran has compiled techniques for making the most of cramped quarters. (Darcel Rockett *Antelope Valley Press* 2007-04-08)

Terence Conran is a space-challenged person's best friend. (*Shelf Life*)

This large book on small spaces is a great coffee table and resource book. (*The Cottager*)

Provides ways to maximize every inch of your home. (Leanne Idle *Dayton Daily News* 2007-05-05)

No more complaining. Legendary London-based designer Terence Conran has compiled techniques for making the most of cramped quarters. (*Warwick Beacon* 2006-04-26)

Lavishly illustrated, it makes living, cooking, entertaining, working and sleeping in less than 1,000 square feet easy and even desirable. (Marilyn Soltis *Chicago Life*)

No matter what the size of your residence there are plenty of suggestions here to help you better utilize the space and in the process improve your home. (Terry Peters *Vancouver North Shore News* 2007-04-25)

As practical as it is insightful, [How to Live in Small Spaces] cover everything from décor tips to storage solutions. (F.S. *Western Living Condo*)

Instead of bemoaning the tight quarters in your efficiency or one-bedroom apartment, tackle the challenge head on with this practical design guide. (Elana Ashanti Jefferson *Denver Post* 2007-05-03)

This jumbo journal of small-home living could inspire you to move into your own teensy space.... Conran, a designer, teaches from experience ... his text, tips and "points to consider" are relevant and straightforward. Nicely illustrated with a wide range of international examples. (Sandy Dunham *Seattle Times* 2007-06-02)

Proves that small can definitely be better.... Conran shows you how you can live well in a small space. (*Style at Home*)

Plenty of innovative solutions ... Conran keeps to a practical theme including some advice early on that will help in getting rid of the vast amount of possessions that many of us no longer need. (Bruce Patterson *Victoria Times-Colonist* 2007-04-22)

[Readers] will find scores of renovation and ideas about how to maximise their space. (George Fetherling *Seven Oaks Magazine* 2007-04-09)

Packed with myriad possibilities on how small scale can still contain big style. (Mary Daniels *Chicago Tribune* 2007-03-25)

Conran ... offers his latest insights into how to cope with a lack of living space.... Useful for people headed the property ladder. (Jane Gadd *Toronto Globe and Mail* 2007-04-27)

Inspirational in its sophisticated approach to decorating and stretching space. (Donna Jean Mackinnon *Toronto Star* 2007-04-19)

Prescient ... Conran tackles each tight living space specifically for maximum use... Enormously accessible. (*Publishers Weekly* 2007-03-05)

Shows how a little can be a lot if the space is used wisely.... The book is packed with practical, time-proven ways to make the most of what you've got. (*HRN: The Weekly Newspapaer of Home Products Retail* 2007-02-26)

When Terence Conran ... says a well-designed home isn't about how much space you have, but how you divide it, we're inclined to believe him. ... Conran shows how a little planning can yield spectacular results. (*Chocolat (English edition)* 2007-04-01)

Well-articulated advice for making the most of every inch. (*Design Lines Toronto*)

Conran does a good job of explaining how to see the potential in small spaces. (Pat Jeffries *The Oregonian* 2007-07-26)

Intriguing contemporary visuals, a room-by-room approach to the subject, and dense, practical advice about assessing your needs, design issues, planning, furnishings and lighting prove that you can live well -- with ample storage -- in even the most diminutive homes. (Jennifer David *House and Home Media* 2007-09-30)

The book's strength is in its providing many examples of these kinds of spaces, to give the reader a clear understanding of how the various spaces work and why. (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 2007-08-12)

Everyone who is planning any kind of house project should read this book. (Deborah Donovan *Arlington Heights Daily Herald* 2007-11-25)

How to Live in Small Spaces by Terrence Conran is inspirational in its sophisticated approach to decorating and stretching space. (Torstar News Service *Metro (Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa)* 2008-01-30)

Lavishly illustrated ... packed with myriad possibilities on how small scale can still contain big style. (*Edmonton Journal* 2007-05-12)

A useful book to have around the house ... will help you get maximum use out of every square inch of space. (Liz Grogan *Good Times*)

Filled with practical information and design tips, the tome emphasizes careful planning as it takes the reader step by step through the process of maximizing and beautifying a tiny abode. (Meredith Gordon *Home Magazine*)

Offers detailed practical information on how to exploit every inch of small-space living.... [Conran's] book is packed with myriad possibilities on how small scale can still contain big style. (Mary Daniels *West County Times, Richmond, VA* 2007-06-10)

No more complaining... Conran offers this audit to help those in small spaces pare down to the most meaningful essentials, a key step in transforming small into sensational. (*Homestyle* 2007-02-01)

No more complaining. Legendary London-based designer Terence Conran has compiled techniques for making the most of cramped quarters. (Darcel Rockett *The Lawton Constitution* 2007-07-15)

No more complaining. Legendary London-based designer Terence Conran has compiled techniques for making the most of cramped quarters. (*The Okanagan Saturday* 2007-10-13)

This book shows you how, with real-home photographs for inspiration and clear diagrams for explanation. Bottom Line? The ultimate home-design guide for the anti-McMansion set. (*Harrowsmith Truly Canadian Almanac* 2008)

More than a coffee table book ... offers practical advice ... covering every room in the house. (Jim Adair *Real Estate Magazine*)

There is plenty of useful information to be found in this book. (Kim Pemberton *The Vancouver Sun* 2008-03-21)

About the Author

Sir Terence Conran is the founder of the Conran Group, an architecture and design firm that also operates 28 restaurants and shops in the United States, Europe and Japan. His books have sold more than 20 million copies worldwide. His first book, *The House Book* (1974), radically changed how we view our home environment.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Delarosa:

The book *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So why must we leave the great thing like a book *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home*? Wide variety you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim that will book can give many information for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you could give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* has simple shape but you know: it has great and big function for you. You can seem the enormous world by open up and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Renee Wood:

This *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* can bring whenever you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* having great arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Helen Leavitt:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not just a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is usually *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home*.

Myra McKenzie:

A number of people said that they feel bored when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt it when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose typically the book *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* to make your own reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading expertise is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the impression about book and reading especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open up a book and go through it. Beside that the publication *How to Live in Small Spaces: Design, Furnishing, Decoration and Detail for the Smaller Home* can to be your brand new friend when you're feel alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of their time.

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